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Ms. Robin Sweeney  
EIS Document Manager  
Office of National Transportation  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1551 Hillshire Drive, M/S 011  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

May 5, 2004

Dear Ms. Sweeney,

Please accept these comments as part of the public scoping process for the Yucca Mountain Rail Corridor project.

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is opposed to the Yucca Mountain project and the proposal to transport nuclear waste by rail through Nevada. The Department of Energy's preferred route for shipping nuclear waste in Nevada would directly impact Wilderness quality lands in the state. The Caliente Corridor, as it is known, as the DOE's preferred route for transporting this waste, would directly harm three Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs).

The DOE's plans to ship nuclear waste to Nevada not only puts the public health of Nevadans in jeopardy, it will also destroy some of the wildest land in our state. The route the DOE has identified goes through a sparsely inhabited part of the state, but is a region where numerous rare plant and animal species can be found. Although it crosses three state highways, the route is planned for valleys that currently have no paved roads and only jeep trails or dirt roads.

The Kawich, South Reveille and Weepah Spring Wilderness Study Areas are at risk. These are lands that the BLM designated as Congressionally protected Wilderness Study Areas in 1979 in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. This act allows undeveloped, wild land, to be forever protected from development and motorized vehicles.

The shipment of this waste into Nevada will threaten the health and well being of our families. With this proposal it will damage the wide open spaces and wild character that defines our state as it leaves us vulnerable to terrorist activity.

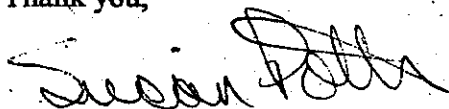
Friends of Nevada Wilderness has been working to protect Nevada's wild places as an organization since 1984. We and our members are directly impacted by this DOE proposal. Should this railroad be constructed, we will no longer be able to utilize and enjoy our special wild places.

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In summary, Friends is completely opposed to the Yucca Mountain project and to this proposal to transport nuclear waste by rail through our beautiful state. We will be submitting more detailed comments later in the process.

Thank you,



Susan Potts  
Southern Nevada Conservation Director  
Friends of Nevada Wilderness

